

Project OXCART

OXCART is the Lockheed A-12 super-sonic aircraft, successor to the U-2, designed for a speed of mach 3.2 at altitudes above 80,000 feet to obtain high resolution photographic data of technical intelligence quality. The first A-12 flight was made in April 1962 and, subsequently, a number of flights were made at the designed speed. Full operational capabilities have not been realized yet but should be ^{achieved} ~~resolved~~ soon.

The A-12 Aircraft will operate from a domestic base or selected forward bases. Range extension will be provided through aerial refuelings with KC-135 Aircraft operating from selected forward bases. A total of 11 of these aircraft are at Area 51 of which 6 belong to the detachment and 5 are in the hands of the Flight Test Center. There are 8 project pilots assigned to the detachment.

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PROJECT OXCART

1. MISSION:

To develop, attain and maintain an operational capability to conduct covert aerial reconnaissance of denied areas.

2. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:

- a. Covert photographic overflights of denied areas to be accomplished by A-12 aircraft operating from a ZI base or selected forward bases, as required.
- b. Range extension to be provided through aerial refuelings with KC-135 aircraft operating from selected forward bases.
- c. Operational missions to be planned, directed, and controlled by Project Headquarters.

3. HISTORY:

- a. Presidential approval received July 1959.
- b. Technical review completed and program go ahead decision made and implemented January 1960.
- c. First A-12 flight (J-75 engine) April 1962.
- d. First A-12 flight (J-58 engine) October 1962.

4. A-12 FLIGHT PROGRAM: (As of 10 Oct 64)

a. Performance:

- (1) Maximum speed - MACH 3.27 3 Jan 64
- (2) Maximum altitude - 83,500 feet 5 Oct 64

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(3) Maximum take-off gross weight -

121,000 pounds 4 Apr 64

(4) Maximum time at/above:

MACH 2.6 1:00 4 Feb 64

MACH 3.0 :32 29 Apr 64

MACH 3.2 :10 3 Feb 64

b. Flight Summary:

(1) Total Flights 1008

(2) Total Hours 1374

(3) Total J-58 Engine Time 1468

5. INVENTORY: (As of 10 Oct 64)

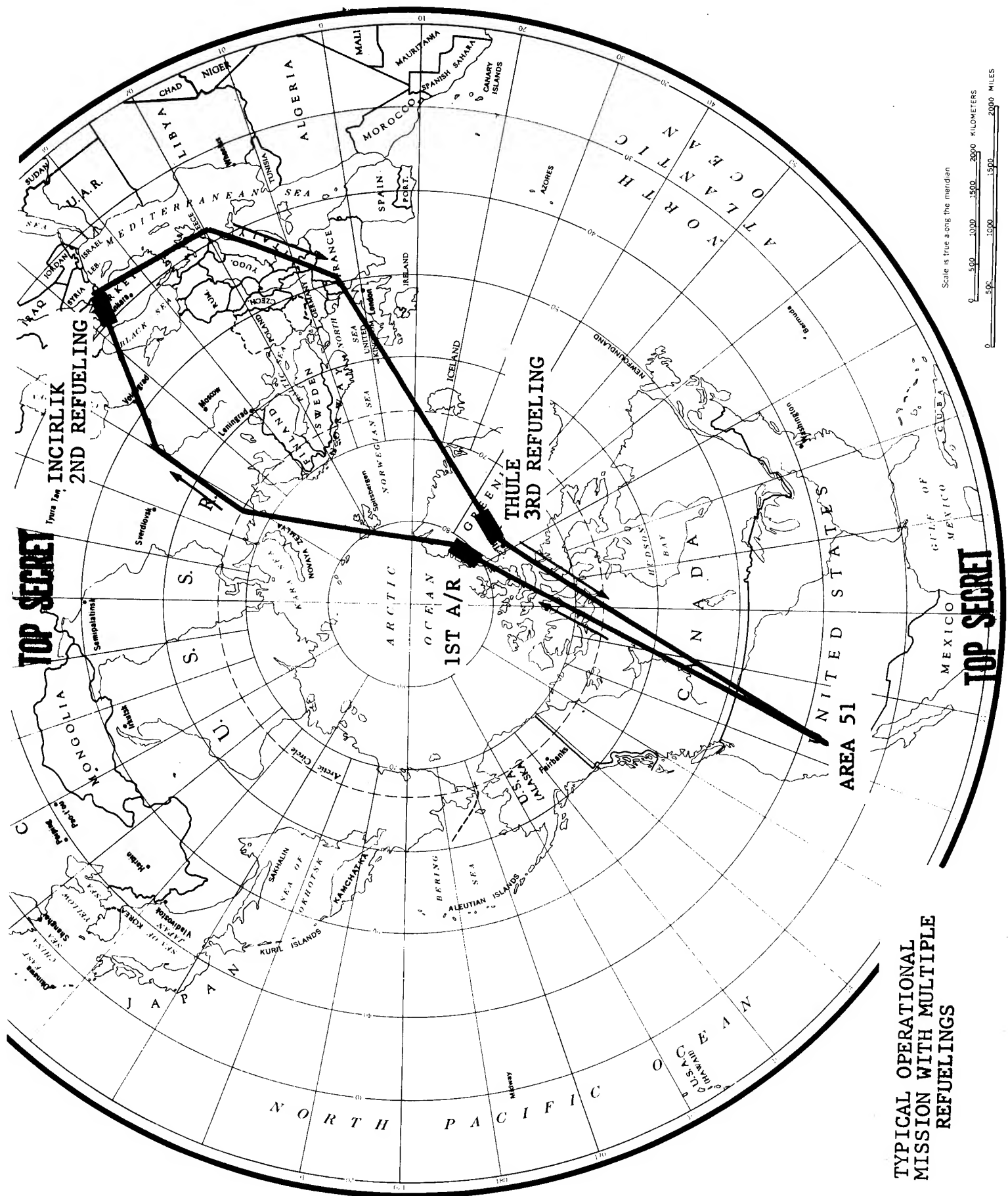
a. A-12 Aircraft: Total of 11 at Area 51 of which 6 are possessed by the Detachment and 5 are possessed by the Flight Test Center. One Detachment aircraft is the J-75 engine equipped dual seater trainer. All remaining aircraft are J-58 equipped.

b. A-12 Pilots: 8 Project pilots are assigned to the Detachment.

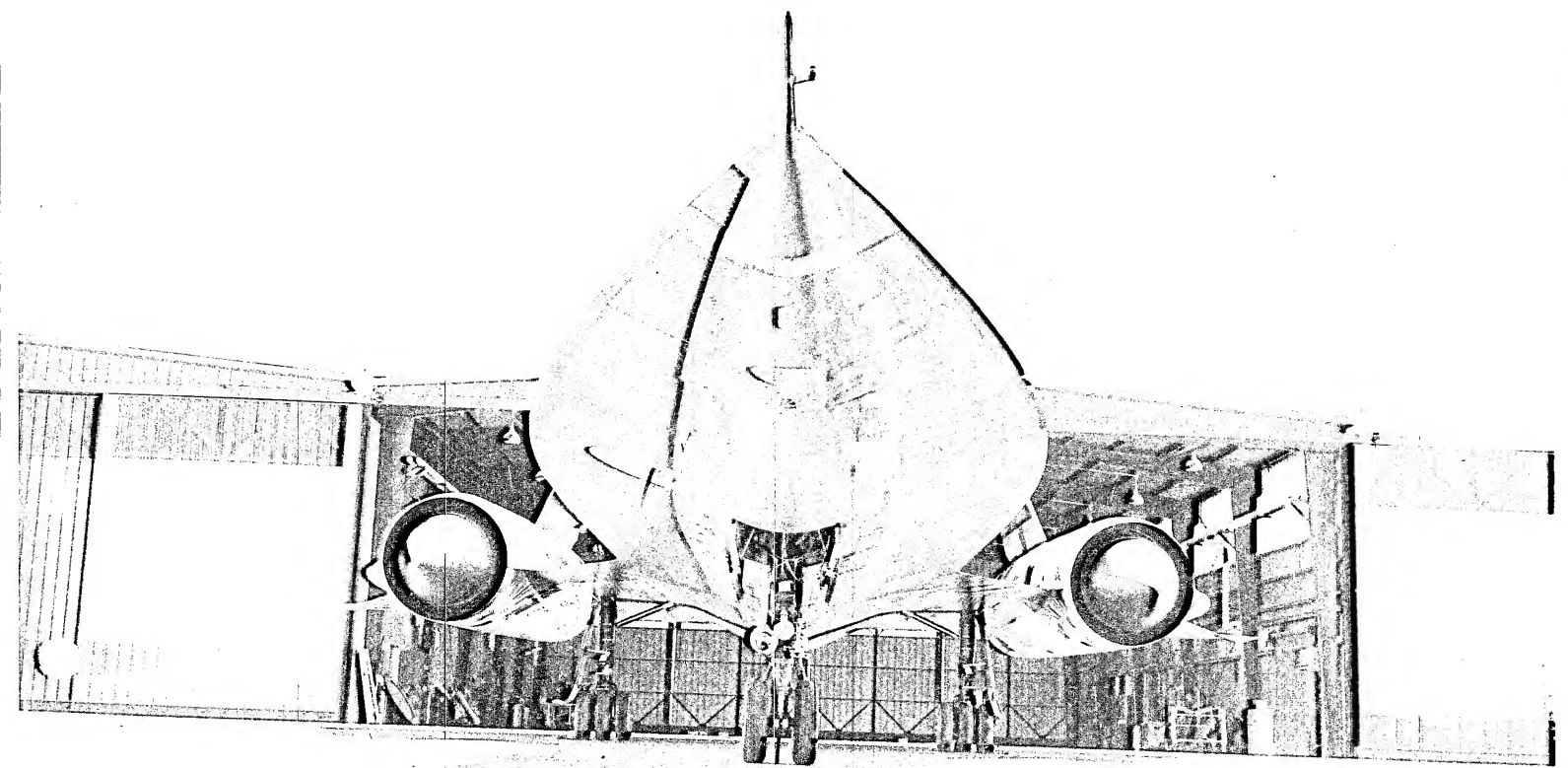
Attachment 1: Typical Operational Mission with Multiple Refuelings.

Attachment 2: Sample Photography - Type I Camera

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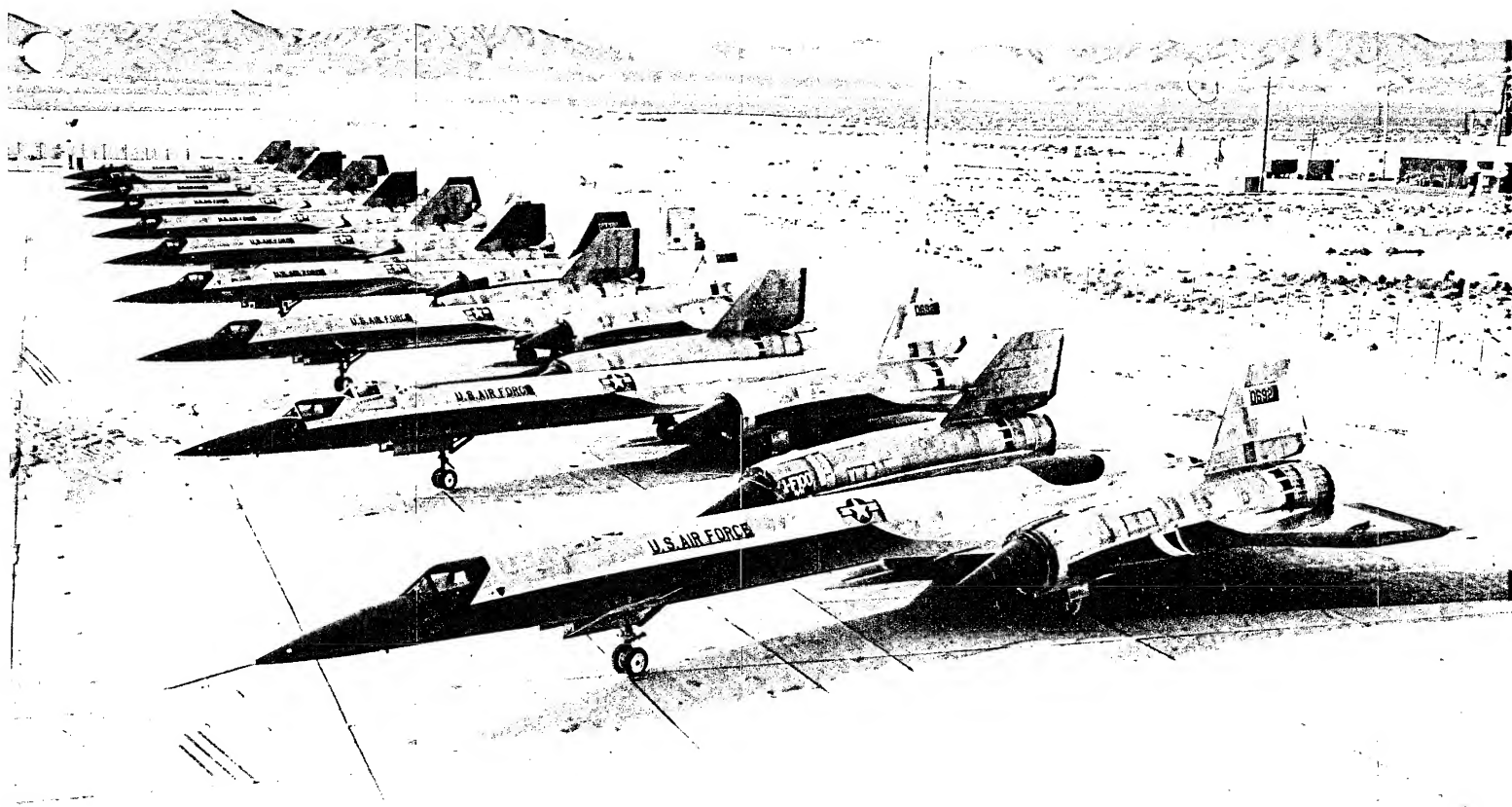


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EXAMPLE TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY

